GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:48
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2007
DRUG PRICE CONTROL
Deshmukh Shri Subhash Sureshchandra

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court had issued an order in March, 2003 that essential and life saving drugs should not be kept outside the purview of price control and that the review of such medicines be completed by May 2 2003;

(b) if so, whether the Government has complied with the order of the apex court;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and;

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARTLIAMENTARY AFFIRS (SHRI B.K.HANDIQUE)

(a) to (d): The Supreme Court vide its interim order dated 10-3-2003 in SLP (C) No. 3888/2003 directed the Government, inter alia, to `consider and formulate appropriate criteria for ensuring essential and life saving drugs not to faii out of price control ana further directed to review drugs which are essential and life saving in nature till 2nd May, 2003`. As per the directions of the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare reviewed the National Essential Drugs List 1996 and brought out the National List of Essential Medicines 2003 (NLEM 2003).Keeping in view the directions of the Supreme Court it has been proposed in the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2008 that basket of drugs for price control would be the essential medicines as contained in the NLEM 2003 in addition to the 74 drugs which are at present under price control under the Drugs {Prices Control) Order, 1995.This Policy was submitted before ihe Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held en 11-1-2007. it was decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). A Group of Ministers has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.